

IN BRIEF

A FIRST RECORD OF THE STRIPE-CHEEKED GREENBUL *ANDROPADUS MILANJENSIS* IN THE PUGU HILLS, TANZANIA

The Stripe-cheeked Greenbul *Andropadus milanjensis* (Shelley) is a montane and sub-montane bird of primary forest, resident from southern Kenya through the highlands of eastern Tanzania and Malawi to Mozambique and Zimbabwe (Stuart & Jensen 1985, Keith *et al.* 1992). According to Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1955), Stuart & Jensen (1985) and Keith *et al.* (1992), the race *A. m. striifacies* (Reichenow & Neumann) occurs in Kenya and Tanzania, where it is mainly sedentary but in the cold season, between April and August, shows altitudinal migration by descending in Tanzania down to 150 m in the Usambaras and 250 m in the Ulugurus. I here report a first record for this species near the coast.

On 26 May 1995 in the Pugu Hills (6°53'S, 39°05'E; 300 m above sea level), about 25 km southwest of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, an adult bird was mist-netted in forest during a bird ringing study. The following details of plumage and soft-part colours were noted. Top of head and upperparts including wing coverts uniform olive-green. Tail feathers brown with narrow pale margins, shaft brown above and whitish below. Black patch from lores and base of bill to cheeks and ear-coverts, streaked white on cheeks and ear-coverts. Chin pale grey with olive wash, rest of underparts from throat to undertail-coverts olive yellow, dark on breast and flanks. Bill pale black and dark grey eye with greyish-white eye ring. The plumage was very worn, with no sign of moult except for a wrinkled brood patch which was being re-feathered. Measurements (mm) were: wing 90, tail 83, bill (to skull) 22.8, tarsus 21.7. Weight recorded at the time of capture (12.30 hrs local time) was 27.0 g. A faecal sample, examined under binocular microscope, consisted of coleopteran remains only.

The description and mensural data are in agreement with those given for *A. m. striifacies* by Keith *et al.* (1992), but the weight was lower, possibly because the bird had just arrived from its breeding area, the nearest being the Ulugurus some 200 km away.

The solitary habit of the Stripe-cheeked Greenbul (Keith *et al.* 1992), and possibly its rarity in the study area, may be reasons why it has not been discovered before in Pugu Hills despite a fairly long history of ornithological investigations there (Harvey & Howell 1987). Alternatively, this new record may be an indication of recent extension of the species' wintering area.

The record was made during a Ph.D. field study on Pycnonotids, a work sponsored by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (Germany), with additional support from the Institut für Vogelforschung, Wilhelmshaven, and the GEF Biodiversity project in Tanzania. I very much thank them all.

References:

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- Mackworth-Praed, C. W. & Grant, C. H. B. 1955. *Birds of Eastern and Northeastern Africa*. Vol. 2. Longmans.
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BOOKS RECEIVED

- Jones, D. N., Dekker, R. W. R. J. & Roselaar, C. S. 1995. *The Megapodes*. Pp. xx+262, 8 colour plates, text-figures, maps and sonagrams. ISBN 0-19-854651-3. Oxford University Press. £35. 25 × 20 cm.

This is the third in OUP's new series 'Bird Families of the World'. With only 22 recognised species in 7 genera, the megapodes lend themselves to comprehensive treatment in a moderately sized book such as this. Its general plan, as in others of the series, consists of a number of general chapters dealing with all biological aspects of main interest in the family concerned, followed by the species accounts. In this case the general chapters, dealing largely with the remarkable adaptations of a family unique in its breeding behaviour and little known to most ornithologists, are of outstanding interest. The species accounts are comprehensive, with distribution maps and sonagrams for the species whose voice has been studied. There cannot be any known fact of evolutionary, biogeographical or specific significance relating to these extraordinary birds that is not presented and discussed in this very well written and illustrated book.

- Summers-Smith, J. D. 1995. *The Tree Sparrow*. Pp. xxii+205, 4 colour plates, 50 text-figures. ISBN 0-9525383-0-X. Published by the author; available from The Natural History Book Service, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. £24. 24 × 16 cm.

A meticulously detailed account of a bird whose only rival as a commensal of man is the House Sparrow, the subject of a monograph from the same pen 33 years ago, and whose range and population fluctuations in Britain and other parts of western Europe have remained an unsolved problem. Tree Sparrows occupy the urban niche of House Sparrows in the Far East, and the details and probable history of this association are explored in depth. A huge literature has been surveyed; there are 19 pages of references, many of them obscure, and 15 appendices. This is a monograph in the true sense, enlivened by drawings by Robert Gillmor and reproductions of Tree Sparrows in Oriental art.